

**CIO Recommendation to the Information Technology Investment Board
for
Project Development Approval**

Agency: Department of General Services (DGS)

Project Title: Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS)

Project Summary:



The Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS), the state laboratory for the Commonwealth of Virginia, provides laboratory support services for a wide variety of local, state, and federal law enforcement, emergency response, health, and environmental protection programs. State laboratory data are also used to monitor air, water, and soil quality. The state laboratory provides services vital to rapid evaluation of and response to biological and chemical agents used for illegal or terrorist activities. Evaluation of DCLS's current capabilities identifies a critical need to implement a robust, integrated, comprehensive laboratory information management system (LIMS) that can securely gather, integrate, store, and transmit data. DCLS currently performs approximately 3 million scientific tests each year for citizens of the Commonwealth without an integrated public health clinical testing information system. Most areas of the laboratory receive paper requests and report and file results on paper forms. DCLS maintains a variety of database applications to maintain supply kit and equipment inventories and sample submission and test result data. Most of these database applications are antiquated, inefficient or insecure, and extremely labor intensive.




The implementation of a comprehensive LIMS will enable DCLS to communicate more efficiently with local, state and federal public health facilities for the purpose of disease prevention, control and surveillance as well as emergency response. The LIMS will allow secure electronic transmission of specimen collection data and results to and from DCLS. The LIMS will provide customers with immediate access to sample tracking information and completed results. The system will facilitate the direct transfer of information from laboratory instrumentation to LIMS, reducing data entry errors, saving labor time and allowing staff to take full advantage of current and future technologies. The LIMS will allow built-in quality assurance/quality control procedures to facilitate error detection and prevention.

The LIMS implementation project is estimated to cost \$1,025,560 and will be 100% federally funded. The funding is secured for only the current grant funding cycle. Therefore, delay of the project start or key project procurements may jeopardize project completion and funding.

The CIO granted Planning Approval for the project on December 17, 2003. The Administration Oversight Committee reviewed the project proposal and charter on December 16, 2003 and recommended the project be approved for development.

Evaluation Summary: *(A Detailed Balanced Scorecard Project Evaluation is attached.)*

Criteria	Summary	Score
Stakeholder Perspective	The project addresses the business needs of internal and external stakeholders and has a direct positive impact on public protection, health, environment and safety.	
Business Process Perspective	The project will result in the rapid exchange of data between DCLS and its customers, will replace manual processing and data storage, will eliminate redundant data entry, and expands the capacity of key processes performed by DCLS.	

Project Management Perspective	The project is a joint effort of numerous state laboratories and laboratory staff will be diverted from regular job duties to complete this project. Both of these factors impose risk on the project. Funding is only secured if the project is completed within the current grant funding cycle.	
Financial and Economic Perspective	Financial and economic benefits are identified and substantiated.	
Enterprise Portfolio Perspective	On balance, the impact on the Commonwealth Enterprise Architecture and associated consolidation goals is positive.	

CIO Recommendation: That the ITIB grant Development Approval for the DGS Laboratory Information Management System Implementation Project and authorize the Chairman of the ITIB to approve the project charter on behalf of the Board.

George C. Newstrom, CIO

Date